

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT MEDINA, JR.,

Plaintiff,

V.

GUSTAVO MARTINEZ, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:23-cv-00935-KES-EPG (PC)

ORDER REGARDING EARLY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Plaintiff Robert Medina, Jr. was confined in Fresno County Jail (FCJ) at the time the events giving rise to this civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff proceeds *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* on his Eighth Amendment claim against Defendants J. Alvarez, Gustavo Martinez, and First-Name-Unknown (FNU) Martinez. While Plaintiff is yet to serve Gustavo Martinez and FNU Martinez, Defendant Jose Alvarez has waived service (ECF No. 38) and appeared in this action by filing an Answer (ECF No. 37) on October 25, 2024.

The Court now directs Plaintiff and Defendant Alvarez to participate in a settlement conference before a Magistrate Judge to see if the case can reach an early settlement. Neither side is waiving any claims, defenses, or objections by participating in this settlement conference.

1 Defense counsel is directed to consider Plaintiff's claim and to speak with Plaintiff
2 following this order.¹ If, after investigating Plaintiff's claim and speaking with Plaintiff, and
3 conferring with defense counsel's supervisor, defense counsel in good faith finds that a
4 settlement conference would not be productive at this time, defense counsel may opt out of this
5 settlement conference by filing *a notice* (a motion is unnecessary) with the Court, in which case
6 the matter will proceed without an early settlement conference.

7 If defense counsel opts out of the settlement conference, or if the case does not settle at
8 the conference, the case will proceed to litigation.²

9 If defense counsel does not opt out, the Court will issue separate order(s) setting the
10 settlement conference and detailing the pre-settlement conference procedures in due course.

11 If a settlement conference is set, to better inform all parties and have a meaningful
12 conference, the Court is requiring that both parties disclose certain documents to each other
13 about the case, as listed below. These documents are relevant to the case and will most likely
14 be disclosed in discovery shortly if this case proceeds to litigation.³

15 Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

16 1. Within forty-five days from the date of service of this order, counsel for
17 Defendant Alvarez shall either: (1) file a notice stating that Defendant opts out
18 of the settlement conference; or (2) contact ADR Coordinator Sujean Park
19 (spark@caed.uscourts.gov) to schedule the settlement conference. If the
20 Defendant does not opt out of the settlement conference, the Court will issue an
21 order setting a settlement conference. That order will include the date of the
22 conference and the Magistrate Judge who will oversee the conference, and may
23 also include procedures required by that Judge.⁴

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26 ¹ The parties may confer by letter.

27 ² If the case proceeds to a settlement conference, the Court will not schedule the case until after
28 the settlement conference is held.

³ If any party has a legal objection to providing a particular document, that party shall file and
serve a notice describing its objection.

⁴ The undersigned will not be the Magistrate Judge overseeing the settlement conference.

1 2. If a settlement conference is set, no later than fourteen days after the date of
2 service of the order setting the settlement conference, each party shall send the
3 other parties, or their attorneys (if represented), the documents listed below. The
4 parties only need to provide documents related to the claim that the Court
5 allowed to proceed past the screening stage. Additionally, defense counsel does
6 not need to include any documents that defense counsel believes are confidential
7 or subject to the official information privilege. **Plaintiff does not need to**
8 **request any documents from the institution at this time.** Plaintiff only needs
9 to provide these documents if Plaintiff already has them in his or her possession.

10 a. Documents regarding exhaustion of Plaintiff's claims;
11 b. All non-confidential documents regarding Rules Violation Reports (or
12 their equivalent disciplinary reports at FCJ), if any exist, associated with
13 the incident(s) alleged in the complaint, including disciplinary charges
14 and findings;
15 c. All of Plaintiff's medical records related to the incident and/or condition
16 at issue in the case, if any exist;
17 d. Chronos for transfer or Administrative Segregation placement (or their
18 FCJ equivalent) related to the incident(s) alleged in the complaint, if any
19 exist; and
20 e. Non-confidential incident reports regarding the use of force incident(s)
21 alleged in the complaint, if any exist;

22 Additionally, the parties may send any other documents related to the case that
23 the parties believe will assist in the settlement conference. However, the parties
24 may not request any other documents until discovery has been opened.

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1 3. The parties are reminded to keep the Court informed of their current address.
2 Any change of address must be reported promptly to the Court in a separate
3 document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of Change of Address."
4 *See L.R. 182(f).*

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6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 Dated: November 7, 2024

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9 /s/ *Eric P. Groj*
10 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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